

21. SMALL BOWL

Thanh Cu, Duc Pho district, Quang Ngai Province,
5th century B.C.–1st century A.D.

Incised gray earthenware, H: 7.4 cm × D: 13 cm

Museum of Vietnamese History, Ho Chi Minh City, BTL5 4820

Sa Huynh-period ceramics are hand-built from a rather coarse clay. Some were blackened or painted black after firing, as was this example. All are earthenware, and as one would expect, over the centuries of production, the quality of the ceramics became better, though quality varied among production sites.

Sa Huynh ceramics are generally stamped, combed, or incised and, as on this example, the lip is everted. The décor on the vessel's body consists of an upper and lower band of three lines containing a central combed design of vertical V-shaped decoration; a row of stamped small blotches covers the bottom. The body and lip were burnished, and two holes on one side of the rim must have

enabled the attachment of a cover. Olav R. T. Janse, who carried out excavations in Viet Nam during the 1920s, collected the piece and gave it to the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University, which later returned it to the Museum of Vietnamese History, Ho Chi Minh City.